

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of )  
 )  
Establishment of Public Service Radio ) RM-9405  
Pool in the Private Mobile Frequencies )  
Below 800 MHz )

**COMMENTS OF BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**

Pursuant to Section 1.405 of the FCC's Rules, Basin Electric Power Cooperative hereby submits its Comments in support of the above-referenced "Petition for Rulemaking" filed on August 14, 1998, by UTC, The Telecommunications Association (UTC), the American Petroleum Institute (API), and the Association of American Railroads.

Introduction

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) is a consumer owned electric utility engaged in the production and transmission of electrical energy for distribution by its member cooperatives. Its microwave and mobile radio systems are crucial to the maintenance and operation of these production and transmission facilities.**

Comments

**Basin Electric's land mobile system is used to maintain approximately 2000 miles of bulk transmission lines in the 115 kV to 345 kV range. Reliability and availability of these transmission lines is critical to the transmission grid in our eight state service territory. This is especially true during the winters where extreme cold and/or blizzards can pose a serious threat to life and property if power is not available. The mobile radio system is an essential tool for our transmission crews that operate and maintain these lines.**

**Basin Electric also uses mobile radio systems in a variety of applications relating to operation and maintenance of its electric power plant facilities and the synthetic natural gas production facility owned and operated by Basin Electric's wholly-owned subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company.**

**Interference from other users could have a detrimental effect on our ability to communicate. Safety of our crews is dependent on clear and timely communications. This is especially true when performing switching, establishing safety clearances, etc.**

**Competitive frequency coordination could lead to other users interfering with our radio system during the critical times described above. This is not acceptable from a safety and reliability standpoint.**

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**UTC's petition for rulemaking proposes a reasonable solution to the above problem. It will help ensure the ability of critical infrastructure to provide essential public services.**

Conclusion

**In conclusion, Basin Electric supports the Petition for Rulemaking, and urges the FCC to promptly issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking looking toward the creation of a Public Service Radio Service as described in the Petition.**

Respectfully submitted,

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

By: 

Robert L. McPhail  
General Manager and CEO

1717 East Interstate Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501  
701/223-0441

Dated: December 21, 1998

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL**


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA                     )  
   ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH                     )

I, Michelle Wiedrich, certify that on December 22, 1998, a copy of the foregoing "Comments of Basin Electric Power Cooperative" was sent by first-class mail, with postage prepaid and addressed to:

Thomas Goode, Esquire  
UTC, The Telecommunications Association  
1140 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 1140  
Washington, D.C. 20036

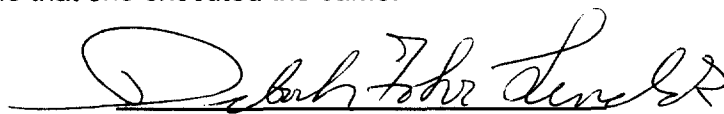
Wayne V. Black, Esquire  
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Louis P. Warchot, Esquire  
Association of American Railroads  
50 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

  
Michelle Wiedrich

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA                     )  
   ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH                     )

On this 22nd day of December, 1998, before me personally appeared Michelle Wiedrich, known to me to be the person who is described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

  
Deborah Fohr Levchak  
Notary Public, Burleigh County, North Dakota

My Commission Expires:  
July 18, 2003



**DEBORAH LEVCHAK**  
Notary Public, State of North Dakota  
My Commission Expires: JULY 18, 2003